

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2001  
2:45 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair  
Bob Workman, Vice Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Bernie Heier  
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of June 21, 2001. Heier, Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

**2 FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF JUSTICE COUNCIL - Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator; Mike Thurber, Corrections Director**

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, reviewed the following (Exhibit A):

- O A history of the Justice Council
- O Accomplishments of the Justice Council's four committees - Domestic Violence, Coalition, Juvenile Justice Review Committee, Alternatives to Incarceration, Drug/Alcohol Advisory Committee
- O *Juvenile Justice System Overview: Yr. 2001-2002, County Issues, Roles and Responsibilities*
- O *Current Illustration, Human Services Administration, May 2001*
- O Options for Human Services Administration, Juvenile Justice System and Adult Criminal Justice System focus

Boesch said there are currently twelve major pieces to the Juvenile Justice System with total operating funds of approximately \$9 million (a combination of County, State and Federal funds). She said the County is responsible for monitoring these dollars, but said there is no coordinated oversight.

Boesch said substance abuse is a critical issue for both the juvenile and the adult population. She said the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program will probably look at how substance abuse affects juveniles, in addition to the mental health issues. Boesch said a coordinated effort also needs to be made to address these issues in the adult area.

Boesch said "there is money and things happening" in the adult corrections field, but said the County is not part of it because of the lack of partnering effort on the part of the State.

Boesch posed two questions to the Board:

1. At what point does the County Board need greater oversight over the Juvenile Justice System?
2. What, if any, is her role with the Adult Correctional System?

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, said Adult Correctional System issues are more extensive than those of the Juvenile Justice System, in part because of the sheer numbers. He noted that there are more judges involved in the adult area and said it is crucial that they "buy in" to alternatives to incarceration. Thurber said Voorhis/Robertson Justice Services, Inc., consultant on the Corrections Needs Assessment, has stated that it would like to see some type of coordinating council in place.

Campbell asked how the Justice Council would fit into that.

Boesch said the Justice Council has been focusing on the Juvenile Justice System and the Family Violence Coalition Study. She said it meets quarterly, but is not always well attended as it is informational in nature and members have attended the subcommittee meetings. Boesch said she believes the County will need someone who can accomplish with the Adult Corrections System, what she did with the Juvenile System and will be "shaking that tree at the State". She said Thurber probably does not have the time to do this, in addition to running the Corrections facility.

Workman asked whether an additional position is needed.

Campbell suggested contracting with someone in the private sector for that service, and said it could be considered a pilot project and funded through the Keno Fund.

Boesch said a configuration is needed that keeps F<sup>3</sup> involved, provides greater oversight of the Juvenile Justice System and builds the Adult Corrections System in such a way as to remove the need for a new jail to be built.

Board consensus to keep the Adult Correctional System separate from the Juvenile Justice System and Human Services Administration.

Campbell suggested formation of a special committee of the Justice Council to look at the Adult Corrections System.

Thurber suggested inclusion of a County Board member, a County Judge, a District Court Judge, and representatives of the Public Defender, County Attorney, the local chapter of the Nebraska Bar Association, law enforcement, substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment.

The Board scheduled a work session on the Juvenile Justice System on August 7, 2001 at 3 p.m. with Boesch; Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director; and Sheryl Schrepf, Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Director. A work session on the Adult Correctional System will also be scheduled with Voorhis/Robertson Justice Services, Inc.

### **3      ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**    Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to adjourn the meeting. Hudkins, Workman, Heier, Stevens and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

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Bruce Medcalf  
Lancaster County Clerk